

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 048757

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEATS ABU DHABI 495 ACTION DEPT INFO KUWAIT DOHA

BEIRUT JIDDA MUSCAT TEHRAN MAR 4TH

QUOTE

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0495

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD (BEIRUT ONLY FOR BAGHDAD)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GULF OIL PRODUCERS PRIOR TO OPEC SUMMIT

REF: STATE 045225

1. AS FAR AS GETTING WORD TO UAEG BEFORE THE OPEC SUMMIT IS CONCERNED, REFTEL MISSED THE BOAT. APPROACH SHOULD PROPERLY HAVE BEEN MADE TO EITHER FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI OR MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA, BOTH OF WHOM DEPARTED FOR ALGIERS 48 HOURS BEFORE INSTRUCTIONS WERE

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RECEIVED. SINCE SHAIKH ZAYID DOES NOT CONCERN HIMSELF TOO MUCH

WITH INTRICACIES OF OIL POLICY, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO GO OVER THIS GROUND WITH HIS TWO KEY MINISTERS. NEVERTHELESS, FEELING THAT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO CONVEY OUR VIEWS AT AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL TO SOMEONE WHO WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO ALGIERS CONFERENCE, UPON RECEIPT REFTEL I PUT IN REQUEST TO SEE SHAIKH ZAYID, WHO RETURNED FROM PAKISTAN ABOUT A WEEK AGO. ZAYID WAS UNFORTUNATELY IN AL-AIN MARCH 1 AND 2, AND DEPARTED EARLY MARCH 3 FOR TRIPOLI AND ALGIERS. AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRESIDENTIAL DIWAN ALI SHURAFU COVEYED SHAIKH ZAYID'S REGRETS AND HOPES THAT HE WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR LONG TALK WITH ME SOON AFTER HE RETURNED FROM ALGIERS. I TRIED TO GIVE GIST OF CONTENTS OF REFTEL TO SHURAFU TO BE CONVEYED TO SHAIKH ZAYID, BUT IN CONFUSION OF AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES, I AM NOT SURE HOW MUCH OF MESSAGE WILL GET THROUGH.

2. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR RETURN OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM TO "OPEN DIALOGUE" AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. APPROACH WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE IN OUR JUDGMENT IF IT HAD BEEN MADE WELL BEFORE OPEC SUMMIT AT TIME WHEN POSITIONS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WERE STILL BEING FORMULATED AND THERE WOULD BE CHANCE OF INFLUENCING U.A.E.G. INPUT INTO OPEC POLICY ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER NEGOTIATIONS. WE DO NOT SEE WHY THIS HAD TO BE MADE A LAST MINUTE RUSH PROPOSITION, ESPECIALLY SINCE INSTRUCTIONS SAY ONLY WHAT SECRETARY HIMSELF OUTLINED FOR US VERBALLY AT ARP CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE FULL TWO WEEKS AGO.
STERNER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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